

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A chalk line device, comprising:
  - a housing having a chalk line port and a chalk port, wherein the housing defines an exterior surface and an interior space including a chalk reservoir in communication with the chalk port;
  - a movable door secured to the housing over the chalk port to selectively open and close the chalk port;
  - a chalk line support mounted in the interior space in the housing;
  - a chalk line having one end secured to the chalk line support within the housing and another end with a hook disposed outside of the housing, wherein the chalk line extends through the chalk line port; and
  - a retracting mechanism mounted to the housing and connected to the chalk line that selectively retracts the chalk line into the housing and allows the chalk line to be extended from the housing through the chalk line port;
  - wherein the exterior surface of the housing includes a side wall with a depression formed therein that is shaped to receive the hook for storage.
2. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the depression has a mouth that is flush with the side wall.
3. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the hook has a body with a line attachment device on one end and a finger extending outwardly from the other end, wherein the finger engages the depression during storage so that the body can lie against the exterior surface.
4. The chalk line device of claim 3, wherein the depression is spaced from the chalk line port about a length of the body of the hook.
5. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the door to the chalk port is mounted to one side of the housing and the depression is located on a different side of the housing.

6. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the housing has walls and the door is mounted on one wall of the housing and the depression is located on another wall that extends at an angle to the side wall with the door.
7. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the housing has walls and the door is mounted on one wall of the housing and the depression is located on a another wall that is located on an opposite side of the housing.
8. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the retracting mechanism includes a handle with a knob and the housing further includes another depression arranged to receive at least a portion of the knob when the handle is stored.
9. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the side wall has a plurality of grip depressions.
10. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a translucent window.
11. The chalk line device of claim 10, wherein the housing has walls and the translucent window is located on a wall of the housing and the depression is located on another wall of the housing.
12. The chalk line device of claim 10, wherein the depression is formed on the translucent window.
13. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the depression has an edge.
14. The chalk line device of claim 13, wherein the edge forms an acute ledge.
15. The chalk line device of claim 1, wherein the depression is spaced from the chalk line port about a length of the hook.

16. A chalk line device, comprising:

a housing having a chalk line port and a chalk port and defining an interior space including a chalk reservoir in communication with the chalk port, wherein the housing includes a translucent window forming at least a portion of a wall of the chalk reservoir;

a chalk line support mounted in the interior space in the housing;

a chalk line secured to the chalk line support and extending through the chalk line port; and

a retracting mechanism mounted to the housing and connected to the chalk line that selectively retracts the chalk line into the housing and allows the chalk line to be extended from the housing through the chalk line port.

17. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the translucent window forms substantially at least one side of the housing.

18. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein an inside surface of the translucent window is polished to prevent chalk from sticking to the inside surface of the translucent window.

19. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the translucent window includes a scale to indicate a level of chalk quantity in the chalk reservoir.

20. The chalk line device of claim 19, wherein the scale includes three lines with words low, medium and high inscribed beside each respective line.

21. The chalk line device of claim 19, wherein the scale includes four lines with the markings  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and full inscribed beside each respective line.

22. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the housing is formed of plastic and the window is formed of plastic.

23. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the housing is formed of metal and the window is formed of plastic.

24. The chalk line device of claim 23, wherein the housing and the window are integrally formed.
25. The chalk line device of claim 24, wherein the housing is over-molded with opaque material.
26. The chalk line device of claim 25, wherein the over-molded opaque material is one of a plastic and rubber.
27. The chalk line device of claim 26, wherein the plastic is a soft plastic.
28. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the translucent window is textured with varying textures to highlight a viewing zone for viewing a level of chalk in the chalk reservoir.
29. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the window is transparent.
30. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the window comprises a transparent zone and a translucent zone.
31. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the window is arranged to cover substantially a whole length of a face of the housing.
32. The chalk line device of claim 16, wherein the housing has a depression that retains an end of the chalk line.
33. The chalk line device of claim 32, wherein the chalk line has a hook and the depression is shaped to engage the hook.
34. The chalk line device of claim 32, wherein the housing has walls and the depression is located on one wall of the housing and the window is located on another wall of the housing.

35. The chalk line device of claim 32, wherein the depression is formed on the window.

36. A chalk line device, comprising:

a housing having a chalk line port and a chalk port, wherein the housing defines an exterior surface and an interior space including a chalk reservoir in communication with the chalk port;

a movable door secured to the housing over the chalk port to selectively open and close the chalk port;

a chalk line support mounted in the interior space in the housing;

a chalk line having one end secured to the chalk line support within the housing and another end with a hook disposed outside of the housing, wherein the chalk line extends through the chalk line port; and

a retracting mechanism mounted to the housing and connected to the chalk line that selectively retracts the chalk line into the housing and allows the chalk line to be extended from the housing through the chalk line port;

wherein the exterior surface of the housing includes a side wall with a depression formed therein that is shaped to receive the hook for storage, and the housing includes a translucent window forming at least a portion of a wall of the chalk reservoir.

37. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the housing has walls and the depression and the window are formed on a same wall of the housing.

38. The chalk line device of claim 37, wherein the depression is formed in the window.

39. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the housing has walls and the depression and the window are formed on different walls.

40. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the depression is spaced from the chalk line port about a length of the hook.

41. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the depression has an edge and the hook has a finger that engages the edge.

42. The chalk line device of claim 41, wherein the edge forms an acute ledge.

43. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the window forms substantially one side of the housing.

44. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the window is arranged to cover substantially an entire length of one side of the housing.

45. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein an inside surface of the translucent window is polished to prevent chalk from sticking to the inside surface of the translucent window.

46. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the translucent window includes a scale to indicate a level of chalk quantity in the chalk reservoir.

47. The chalk line device of claim 46, wherein the scale includes three lines with words low, medium and high inscribed beside each respective line.

48. The chalk line device of claim 46, wherein the scale includes four lines with the markings  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and full inscribed beside each respective line.

49. The chalk line device of claim 36, wherein the translucent window is textured with varying textures to highlight a viewing zone for viewing a level of chalk in the chalk reservoir.